

From: ["Thomas. Hattie" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE>](mailto:Thomas.Hattie@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE)
To:
CC:
Date: 1/16/2014 3:42:03 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest for 01/16/14

OPA Daily Digest for 01/16/14

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State and Local Government Inquiries:

Rep Bill Otto (Mo): 1/12/14 - Question on work being done at the Westlake Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Press Inquiries:

None

Environmental Stories:

EPA News Release - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Statement to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on the President's Climate Action Plan - 1/16/14 - Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Based on the evidence, more than 97% of climate scientists are convinced that human-caused climate change is occurring. <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/FE40A46647A6007F85257C6200564C15>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - New reports of cancers near Coldwater Creek in North County - 1/16/14 - An informal survey of 3,300 current and former residents of north St. Louis County shows that more than one-third have developed cancers, a rate the residents blame on radioactive contamination of Coldwater Creek, which runs from St. Ann to the Missouri River. http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/health/new-reports-of-cancers-near-coldwater-creek-in-north-county/article_ff009cbc-6e96-51f9-9782-5f3171f471f2.html

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Survey Blames High Cancer Rate on Coldwater Creek - 1/15/14 - A Facebook survey of some three thousand people from the Coldwater Creek area of north county shows clusters of cancer and other illnesses some blame on nuclear waste once stored there. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/01/15/survey-blames-high-cancer-rate-on-coldwater-creek/>

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Cold Water Creek group exposes new cancer cases (two videos) - 1/15/14 - Florissant natives who grew up near Cold Water Creek released alarming data Wednesday about rare cancers and other diseases possibly linked to radiation exposure. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/5-on-your-side/2014/01/15/cold-water-creek-new-cancer-cases-found/4498409/>

St. Louis Public Radio - Survey Shows Numerous Cancers, Other Diseases, Near North St. Louis County Creek - 1/15/14 - New data are adding to concerns that exposure to radioactive waste in Coldwater Creek could be causing cancers and other health problems. <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/survey-shows-numerous-cancers-other-diseases-near-north-st-louis-county-creek>

KTRS Radio St. Louis - Group says cancer rates high along Cold Water Creek - 1/16/14 - A local group says cold war era nuclear waste is still sickening current and former residents along Cold Water Creek in north St. Louis County. <http://www.ktrs.com/news/local-news/item/12881-group-says-cancer-rates-high-along-cold-water-creek>

KMOV Ch. 4 St. Louis - Report finds increased cancer cases near St. Louis County creek (video) - 1/15/14 - A local group says more and more evidence continues to pile up suggesting people who lived near Coldwater Creek have gotten cancer caused by nuclear waste produced and discarded during the Cold War. <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Group-says-report-shows-cancer-around-240332751.html>

Associated Press - Group logs cancer cases near St. Louis Co. creek - 1/15/14 - Current and former residents of a north St. Louis County neighborhood say that a disproportionately high number of people who grew up near a contaminated creek have been diagnosed with cancer. <http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Group-logs-cancer-cases-near-St-Louis-Co-creek-5145985.php>

KTRS Radio St. Louis - Group says cancer rates high along Cold Water Creek Featured - 1/16/14 - A local group says cold war era nuclear waste is still sickening current and former residents along Cold Water Creek in north St. Louis County. <http://www.ktrs.com/news/local-news/item/12881-group-says-cancer-rates-high-along-cold-water-creek>

Des Moines Register - Activist group releases TV ad saying Iowans play 'roulette' by drinking water from polluted rivers - 1/15/14 - Citizens for a Healthy Iowa, a Des Moines-based activist group that supports clean water policies, has released a 30-second television advertisement entitled "Drinking Water Roulette." <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140115/NEWS09/301150104/1056/news05>

Associated Press - Neb. suing EPA over power plant standards - 1/16/14 - Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning says his office is suing the federal Environmental Protection Agency over greenhouse gas standards for new power plants. Bruning said "the impossible standards imposed by the EPA will ensure no new power plants are built in Nebraska." <http://www.omaha.com/article/20140116/NEWS/140119006/1707>

Des Moines Register - Don't reduce biofuel mandate, Iowans in Congress tell EPA - 1/15/14 - A bipartisan effort to preserve the renewable fuel standard that has aided Iowa's booming agriculture economy is well underway by the state's political leaders. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301160052>

Daily Nebraskan (Lincoln) - Water lecturer warns of contamination dangers - 1/16/14 - One of the major issues with groundwater contamination is caused by nitrates seeping into soils. Nitrates are used as fertilizers, and because of the structure of Nebraska's soils, they can easily contaminate the groundwater. http://www.dailynebraskan.com/news/water-lecturer-warns-of-contamination-dangers/article_ee07154e-7e61-11e3-b564-001a4bcf6878.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Federal team coming to St. Louis to tackle urban challenges - 1/16/14 - A team of federal experts will soon be coming to St. Louis to help the city find ways to better tackle some of its most complex urban challenges. St. Louis is one of seven cities that will be added to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Strong Cities, Strong Communities program, HUD said Thursday. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/federal-team-coming-to-st-louis-to-tackle-urban-challenges/article_1cddc0ad-3463-5431-9643-a4b6b2672642.html

KNSS Radio Wichita - Kansas Chamber Expands Agenda on Energy, Education - 1/14/14 - The Kansas Chamber of Commerce is expanding its legislative agenda this year to include support for repealing the state's renewable energy standard for utilities. <http://www.knssradio.com/pages/18178161.php?contentType=4&contentId=14534570>

Lincoln Journal-Star - LES may have to pay \$83 million to help cut emissions from Wyoming coal plan - 1/15/14 - The Lincoln Electric System may be forced to spend \$83 million to help reduce haze-causing emissions from a coal plant it partly owns in Wyoming. http://journalstar.com/news/local/les-may-have-to-pay-million-to-help-cut-emissions/article_a74fb6af-4c35-545a-9441-77d3f16b00d9.html

Marshalltown Times-Republican - Braley touts support for current Renewable Fuels Standard - 1/16/14 - U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, said he continues to talk to Environmental Protection Agency leaders to try to save the current Renewable Fuels Standard, which helps promote ethanol and biofuels usage. <http://www.timesrepublican.com/page/content.detail/id/567584/Braley-touts-support-for-current-Renewable-Fuels-Standard.html>

Lincoln Journal Star - Local View: Don't cut Renewable Fuel Standard - 1/16/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to bend to the whims of the oil industry and cut back on the amount of corn ethanol in our nation's fuel supply by 1.4 billion gallons in 2014 as prescribed by the Renewable Fuel Standard passed by Congress. http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/local-view-don-t-cut-renewable-fuel-standard/article_0599f3b9-b655-5a09-8e8b-5fb5309cff00.html

Leavenworth Times (Kan.) - Sewers a must for growth | Unlike other utilities, adequate sewers are necessary before growth can occur - 1/15/14 - Unlike other utilities, adequate sewers are necessary before growth can occur. That was a point a Lansing city official made Thursday night as he explained options for the city's Seven-Mile Creek action plan. <http://www.leavenworthtimes.com/article/20140115/NEWS/140119525>

KOAM Ch. 7 Pittsburg/Joplin - Funding available for wastewater engineering services for Missouri communities - 1/15/14 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is now accepting applications from communities with planning or design assistance needs for wastewater treatment and collection facilities. <http://www.koamtv.com/story/24463351/funding-available-for-wastewater-engineering-services-for-missouri-communities>

Lake Expo (Mo.) - House bill could reduce Missourians' sewer bills - 1/16/14 - The House Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources will hear a bill Thursday morning that its sponsor Rocky Miller says could save money for anyone whose residence is connected to a sewer system. http://lakeexpo.com/news/business/article_e92d5a96-7eb2-11e3-af3c-001a4bcf887a.html

Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: Agriculture's challenges - 1/16/14 - A little over a year ago, a high-level scientific advisory council to the White House issued a 55-page report that outlined key challenges facing U.S. agriculture. <http://gooutdoorsne.com/article/20140116/NEWS08/140119103>

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Bruning challenges new EPA rules - 1/16/14 - Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning said Wednesday his office is challenging greenhouse gas standards rolled out by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last week targeting new power plants. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/bruning-challenges-new-epa-rules/article_c87d5894-98bf-534d-b41e-d23573aa07db.html

McPherson-Sentinel (Kan.) - Check home for high levels of radon - 1/15/14 - Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment have proclaimed January "Kansas Radon Action Month" to help educate Kansans about the dangers of radon exposure and encourage actions to identify and address radon problems in the home. <http://www.mcphersonsentinel.com/article/20140115/LIFESTYLE/140119579/1019/ENTERTAINMENTLIFE>

Des Moines Register - Iowa House and Senate approve resolutions supporting renewable fuel standard - 1/16/14 - The Iowa House and Senate are on record in support of the renewable fuel standard. Lawmakers from both chambers unanimously approved a resolution on Thursday calling on the federal Environmental Protection Agency to abandon a proposed rule that would reduce a mandate for the production of fuel from renewable sources. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/01/16/iowa-house-approves-resolution-supporting-renewable-fuel-standard/>

Washington Post - On Running the EPA - 1/16/14 - Robert Perciasepe speaks about managing the EPA with Tom Fox, a guest writer for On Leadership and vice president for leadership and innovation at the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-leadership/wp/2014/01/16/on-running-the-epa/>

Politico - Mitch McConnell launches pre-emptive strike on EPA climate rule - 1/16/14 - Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell moved Thursday to force a Senate vote on one of the prime regulations in President Barack Obama's climate plan, a move that would force vulnerable Democrats to take a public stance on the controversial rule heading into the midterm elections. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/01/mitch-mcconnell-epa-climate-rule-102272.html>

The Oklahoman - Oil shipped by rail raises safety concerns - 1/14/14 - Railroad tank cars carrying crude oil had screeched off the rails and burst into flames outside this northeast Oklahoma County town, sending fire and black smoke high into the hot, blue sky. <http://newsok.com/oil-shipped-by-rail-raises-safety-concerns/article/3923889>

Energy Central - Hydrogen fuel, not electricity, could be future of solar power - 1/14/14 - Changing solar energy not into electricity but hydrogen fuel and storing it for later can allow devices to run after the sun goes down, U.S. researchers say. http://www.energycentral.com/functional/news/news_detail.cfm?did=31207108&

SNL - US Chamber's new energy plan disregards previous concerns about climate change - 1/15/14 - In its first comprehensive energy plan in nearly six years, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 15 called for more oil and gas drilling, fewer restrictions on coal-fired power plants, expanded support for nuclear energy, phasing out renewable energy subsidies, and relaxed environmental regulations. <http://www.snl.com/InteractiveX/Article.aspx?cid=A-26543974-11817>

The Hill - GOP senator blasts rail cars regs delays - 1/15/14 - A Republican senator expressed disappointment Wednesday in the Department of Transportation's decision to delay stronger regulations for rail cars that are carrying oil. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/195525-gop-senator-blasts-rail-cars-regs-delays>

The Hill - EPA's transparency problem - 1/15/14 - The EPA is charging ahead with power plant rules, claiming that the agency has "peer-reviewed" evidence that CSS is possible. Unfortunately, the EPA has a funny way of defining peer-review. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/195419-epas-transparency-problem>

The Hill - Republican rider in omnibus bill would loosen EPA oversight of waste - 1/16/14 - A GOP rider in the \$1 trillion omnibus racing to President Obama's desk would prevent the administration from tightening rules on waste materials that mining companies can dump in streams. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/195621-gop-rider-in-omnibus-bill-would-tighten-rules-on-waste>

Los Angeles Times - Big, old trees keep growing and capturing carbon, study finds - 1/15/14 - Scientists who gathered decades of measurements from hundreds of thousands of trees all over the world are punching a hole in the common assumption that large, old trees are biologically pretty much over the hill. <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-old-trees-carbon-capture-20140115.0.5642959.story>

Greenwire - Political chops the hallmark of McCarthy's team - 1/15/14 - Administrator Gina McCarthy has put together a seasoned team of political operatives, Capitol Hill veterans and policy experts to lead the effort from within her office. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059992954/>

E&E News PM - Governors group urges feds to 'not get in the way' on energy, transportation - 1/15/14 - The top leaders of the National Governors Association today called on Congress and federal agencies to improve their working relationships with state officials, especially when it comes to energy policy, infrastructure and cybersecurity. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059992989/>

ClimateWire - Mo. utility to boost solar power capacity - 1/15/14 - A Missouri utility company has announced plans to build a multimillion-dollar solar power facility next to its electric substation in O'Fallon, a suburb of St. Louis. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059992900/>

ClimateWire - Omnibus bill leaves out rider to block EPA power plant rules - 1/15/14 - The massive budget bill passed by Congress late Monday removed many of the riders to block U.S. EPA's efforts to cap emissions on power plants, a move welcomed by environmentalists, despite progress on a similar bill in the House. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059992936/>

Los Angeles Times - Arctic sea ice gaps drive toxic mercury conveyor belt - 1/15/14 - Gaps forming in seasonal Arctic sea ice may be creating a toxic conveyor belt, drawing mercury from higher altitudes to rain down on the ice, snow and tundra, according to a new study. <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-arctic-ice-mercury-20140115.0.566921.story>

ClimateWire - Old trees store more carbon, more quickly, than younger trees - 1/16/14 - A sweeping study of forests around the world finds that the older the tree, the greater its potential to store carbon and slow climate change. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059993010/>

Domestic Fuel - New Study: Corn Ethanol Reduces GHG Emissions - 1/16/14 - According to a new study, that compared the greenhouse gas emission reductions of corn ethanol and those of crude oil production and fracking, corn ethanol's carbon intensity is declining while the carbon intensity of petroleum is increasing.

<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/01/16/new-study-corn-ethanol-reduces-ghg-emissions/>

BNA - Study: Ethanol Less Carbon-Intensive Than Petroleum - 1/15/14 - Unconventional petroleum production is increasing the carbon intensity of gasoline, while ethanol production is becoming more efficient, according to a Jan. 15 study commissioned by the ethanol industry. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39944489&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5c2n1v4&split=0

BNA - Hoeven Acknowledges 'Uphill Battle' In Senate for Bill Blocking Power Plant Rules - 1/15/14 - Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) told reporters Jan. 15 that legislation to limit the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate greenhouse gases from power plants would face "an uphill battle" in the Democrat-controlled Senate. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39944475&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5c2e0b6&split=0

BNA - Cleanup of North Dakota Spill Likely to Take Two Years, State Environment Official Says - 1/15/14 - The cleanup of the North Dakota oil spill that was discovered in late September but not announced by the state until two weeks later is likely to take another two years to clean up, according to the chief of the state's environmental health section (EHS) of the Health Department. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39944444&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5b7z9a2&split=0

BNA - Divergent Voluntary, Mandatory Standards For Reporting Cause Confusion, Advisers Say - 1/15/14 - The growing disconnection between voluntary and mandatory standards for corporate reporting on the financial impacts of climate change and other sustainability-related issues is creating confusion over the definition of "materiality," according to corporate disclosure advisers. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39944493&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5c2n5b2&split=0

BNA - Agencies Set Environmental Exclusions For Some Highway, Transit Projects - 1/15/14 - Highway or transit projects within existing operational rights of way or that receive limited amounts of federal funding would be excluded from environmental impact reviews under a final rule issued by two federal agencies. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=39944445&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5b9m7a0&split=0

Inside EPA - GAO Urges Congress To Bolster Regulation Of Nonpoint Source Pollution - 1/15/14 - The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is calling on Congress to expand what it says is limited regulation of nonpoint source water pollution and end the traditionally voluntary approach to curbing the runoff. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/17/2014/gao-urges-congress-to-bolster-regulation-of-nonpoint-source-pollution/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Urged To Fix Inconsistencies Integrating Major Goals In Strategic Plan - 1/15/14 - States, EPA science and policy advisors and others are faulting the agency's draft fiscal year 2014-2018 strategic plan for failing to adequately integrate its major policy goals such as sustainability and climate adaptation into specific program targets. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-01/17/2014/epa-urged-to-fix-inconsistencies-integrating-major-goals-in-strategic-plan/menu-id-67.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

1/17/14 - Meeting with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Col. Sexton, Kansas City, Mo, Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

1/17/14 – Meet and greet with new HUD Regional Director, Jennifer Tidwell, Regional Office, Kerry Herndon, 7286

2/5/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

2/11/14 – Agribusiness Showcase Conference, Des Moines, Kris Lancaster, 7557

2/12/14 – Iowa Legislation Availability Session, Des Moines. Sarah Hatch, 7199

2/20/14 – Air & Waste Management Association Mid-West Chapter Annual Conference, Overland Park, Kan., Becky Weber, 7487

DRA:

1/17/14 – Meet and greet with new HUD Regional Director, Jennifer Tidwell, Regional Office, Kerry Herndon, 7286

2/5/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

1/17/14 – Technical assistance to Missouri Department of Natural Resources on water program databases, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Michael Boeglin, 7252, Neil Gilbert, 7985.

1/21-24/14 – Groundwater Protection Council Training Conference, New Orleans, La. Contact: David Garrett, 7159

Hattie L. Thomas

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